

Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR

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MOSQUITOES, TOURISTS AND DISEASE.

There are two potent reasons why the authorities should spend some money in a scientific warfare on mosquitoes. One is to get rid of an annoyance to tourists and residents alike; the other is to cut off an agency of disease.

The common remark of a tourist returning home from Honolulu is: "A delightful place but for the mosquitoes!" It is a remark which has cost Honolulu tens of thousands of dollars more than the cost of cleaning out the insect-breeding places would be. There are so many good places to stay where mosquitoes do not abound as to make it a matter of nerve for a tourist to deliberately choose a resort where they are plentiful.

The consensus of opinion is that the mosquito carries and spreads the germs of the dengue fever which has given our people so much annoyance for a year past. The dengue fever does not kill and does not keep the victim in bed more than a week or two, but it is enough to turn the scale against Honolulu in favor of a resort where there is no dengue.

But this is not the worst. One of the few varieties of mosquito here is the yellow fever breed. It was originally brought from Mexico, where the yellow fever prevails and it came in the stale water-butt of whalers. Had a case of yellow fever arrived with it the disease might have been permanently located in Hawaii; but so far, through all these years, because of the want of further communication with Mexico and Central America, the yellow fever has not been one of our afflictions. But if a single case appears in the harbor and inoculates the right kind of a mosquito, Hawaii will have no further attractions for tourists and little for residents. When we realize that Hawaii, as a port on the line between China and Mexico, stands in peril of the Southern pestilence for the first time in fifty years, the need of killing off the mosquitoes becomes imperative.

The thing can be done. At Hilo Prof. Henshaw says that he can free the place from mosquitoes in sixty days. Here the job would take longer, owing to the taro land, but even here the measures which are becoming effective in the East would work out well. Vigilance as to standing water about one's premises; the use of coal oil in swampy places and in ponds; the introduction to all fresh-water ponds of larvae-eating fish; the planting, as in Florida, of tropical shrubs which exude a sweet, sticky substance in which mosquitoes lose their lives—these are the methods by which Honolulu could rescue itself from a menace both to its prosperity and its health and do so at no great cost.

EARTHQUAKES IN CALIFORNIA.

One of the best things that could happen to the Pacific coast would be the opening of a volcanic vent somewhere in the Sierras, at enough distance from populous areas to minimize the danger of eruptions. Gases forever accumulating in the deep oil-bearing strata of the State and finding no orifice through which to exhaust themselves, naturally make trouble. After a severe earthquake in California there is a strong gaseous smell in the air, suggestive of that which comes from the open mouths of Vesuvius and Kilauwea. Were Shasta or Lassen Butte or Mt. Whitney active it is probable that earthquakes would be few and far between, save those which might be caused by shrinking of the strata, the seepage of ocean water into heated cavities far below the surface and by the machinery of a volcano in eruption. Undoubtedly the number happening would be much fewer than at present.

It is fortunate that the latest seismic movement in California did not come at the height of the tourist season, for nothing frightens the Eastern tenderfoot more than any instability of the soil underfoot. In August few strangers visit the State. So, as a result, Sunday's earthquake was almost a monopoly of those who cannot afford to let such things frighten them away.

But if the seismic reputation of the Golden State is too much for anybody's nerves, Hawaii offers all such a soothing invitation. In the meles of the natives, descending from the year 800, there is no record of any severe earthquakes here. Once in a great while—a long period of years—Honolulu feels an almost imperceptible shiver, a sort of electric thrill, but it rests content in the thought that if gases or steam are pressing to get out into Hawaiian air the free vent of Kilauwea, 200 miles away, will give them way and room. That deep pit is our safety-valve, the thing that keeps these islands from such experiences as periodically afflict those who live in the shadow of the choked-up volcanic cones that traverse the length of California in parallel lines.

Investigation will show that the majority of the severe earthquakes California has had in the last twelve years occurred about 11 p. m.

THE WIDE OPEN PRIMARY.

Anything that is said in defence of a primary plan which permits the enemies of the Republican party to take a hand in the choice of its delegates, the naming of its ticket and the definition of its policies is mere dust-raising to conceal a factional purpose.

The history of the primary scheme is interesting. At the first primaries of the party, the ones called by men chosen at a mass meeting, there was no test other than personal interest in a Republican duty. It was assumed that all primary voters meant to support the ticket, though it turned out that a large proportion of them did not. At the Territorial convention which followed, a bare majority were in favor of confining Republican primaries to Republican voters; but the anti-Dole and pro-Sewall factionists fought this reasonable plan because, knowing themselves to be in a minority, they wanted the help of outsiders in "downing" the Dole element. They won by a trick. A. S. Humphreys, at the risk of reporting a private conversation with his late law-partner, Lorrin Andrews, told the delegates that Andrews had said that the value of the strict party primary was in "keeping out the natives." Mr. Andrews denied that he had ever made such an absurd statement but the Hawaiians got excited and Curtis Iaukea, who had supported the strict party primary idea until then, went off on his usual tangent and cost the Republican primary men enough votes to defeat their project. From that time on there have been wide-open primaries at which the Home Rulers and Democrats have decided, in large degree, what course the Republican party should take in making nominations.

The plan has worked well for those who oppose the taxpayers and what are generally called the "missionaries." Except for it the machine politicians could not expect to do anything in the Fourth District or very much in the Fifth; they would have to take what belongs to a minority and no more. But the power to draw from the swarm of Home Rulers, most of whom do not know the English language or much else and are easy dupes of those who appeal to their prejudices, has enabled the machine men to win in the face of the majority. The Representatives ticket they made up last year would have been utterly rotten but for three or four names; it spawned in the Legislature the combined thirteen who voted for every steal and showed by their policies, speeches and their habit of going to Home Rule headquarters to confer, what their political principles really were.

It is within the power of the Territorial Committee to make the primary rules Republican. According to the Attorney General this is the business of the Committee and not of the convention. Yet in the face—in the very teeth—of the Wilcox threat to capture the primaries and give us a Boyd-Vida-Kumalea ticket for county offices, the Republican Central Committee, at Saturday night's meeting, voted to let the wide-open primary rules stand. This means the nomination of a ticket which no self-respecting citizen and prudent taxpayer can support; a ticket which will stand as the old Carpet Bag tickets in the South did for Addition, Division and Silence; a ticket which will menace public honor and private rights.

Citizens and taxpayers what are you going to do about it? Are you going to stand by a committee which is, of itself, a product of wide-open primaries and thus help to ruin the government of the new counties; or are you going to protect yourselves?

PEARL HARBOR OPENING.

The completion of the contract for dredging Pearl Harbor will admit a vessel drawing thirty feet to the great locks. In other words any of the vessels that enter here can go there. Of course before commerce is invited the entrance to the port must be beaconed, buoyed and otherwise marked, but that is a matter of detail for which the means will be had in due time if they are not yet available. Now that the port is all but ready, the next step will be its occupation. Commercially there is no particular demand for it yet and there will be less when Supt. Cooper's admirable system of wharves and docks has been built up on the Honolulu waterfront. But in a naval sense the new port is needed vitally and we may expect that Congress will, at its next session, provide the funds for beginning work on a naval plant and fortifications. There is a sum in excess of \$100,000 available now but the Naval authorities, when they begin a task calling for millions, prefer to have more money in sight.

When Judge Estee returns from his well-earned vacation he will, we trust, start a Grand Jury investigation of the missing legislative vouchers. Evidence grows that they have been burned and it should be easy to fix the responsibility and land the guilty parties in jail. The Advertiser is informed that one of the missing vouchers would reveal the payment of \$20 for one page of typewriting worth, at the outside, \$1.50. There were scores if not hundreds of such fraudulent transactions during the four months the Ali Baba Legislature was in session; and that is the reason the vouchers were destroyed. As the Federal law governing Territories is strict on this point, Judge Estee has ample authority to proceed.

We hope nothing so radical will be done as to divert the McKinley Memorial fund into one for the building of a lighthouse. It is the business of the United States to light these coasts and harbors, not the business of the Territory. If there is not enough money in the McKinley fund for the proposed park what there is might properly be used to make one of the parks we have more attractive.

Representative Aylett, who has been a consistent Republican from the beginning of the new state of affairs in Hawaii, notwithstanding the fact that a section of the press of the city condemned him as a Home Ruler because his views happened to differ from those

of a certain clique, spoke heartily in favor of the resolutions.—Bulletin.

Aylett? Aylett? Is this the Aylett who spent the public's time in the last days of the Legislature abusing the Republican party which elected him? If it is we don't wonder that he voted for the resolutions.

In any other place than this the Republicans who have subscribed towards the expenses of the enemy's political organ, in this case the Home Rule paper, and who are keeping Home Rulers in public employment would be promptly read out of the party.

The question is: How many names will Theresa let the Republicans put on their county ticket?

Hilo need not despair about its railroad. The Rapid Transit was not built in a day.

GLIMPSES OF LOCAL POLITICS

Theresa's new paper was started largely by subscriptions. It is said on very excellent authority that there are the names of some prominent Republican leaders on the list of those who helped her. Some of these donations were because Theresa decided to allow the Territory to have a loan bill. As the situation developed it appeared that the fate of this highly important measure was in the hands of Mrs. Wilcox and she kindly helped the Republicans to pass it. It was a proud realization of the Republican victory of 1902 in the last election. The Republican and Home Rule parties appeared to have the same petticoat government. And when "the boys" have captured the Republican county primaries the same thing will occur again, say the kickers.

There is considerable talk of Fifth district candidates for various offices in the coming election. T. McCon Stewart is said to be after a nomination for county attorney, while John Lane is talked of for sheriff, and J. D. Avery for county clerk. James H. Boyd is openly out for supervisor, and D. H. Kahaulelio, E. C. Winston, Abraham Fernandez are mentioned as running mates. John Holt may be the man for treasurer.—Star.

If you have any spare photos, or books on Hawaii, the Tourist Agency would like them at the rooms in the Young Block, on Hotel street.

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